

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 8, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

October 9 Explorer Treasure Chest Project Due
October 12 Social Studies Unit Assessment
October 15 Picture Day
October 16-19 PTO Book Fair
October 16-18 Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 18 Half Day of School
October 19 Half Day of School
October 31 Bowling Outing

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to seeing you all at conferences. Please be sure to sign up for a time slot with your child's homeroom teacher if you haven't done so. Next week will include two half-days to accommodate conferences.

Our PTO has been hard at work organizing the Book Fair, which will take place October 16-19. Be sure to check out the selection.

Custom typing is a valuable online tool for your student to use at home to improve finger placement, speed, and stamina. It can be accessed through the "Students" tab on the District 97 web page or by clicking on this link:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

Art - We are just finishing up our Optical Illusions art project. Our two-dimensional Op Art projects achieve the illusion of three-dimensions and are on display by the main office. We have received many compliments. Check them out on [here](#)!

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus - Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders have been learning about los conquistadores in Spanish class. We also started a new story, *La Montaña Hamburguesa*. It will be posted soon to the blog!

Library - Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about Banned Books Week (September 30 - October 6) and hearing a book talk for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award. Please

keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) and the library blog (holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue on with our first reading unit, "Courage" and looking for examples to help us answer the question "What does it mean to be courageous." During the fourth week, students will read different stories about helping friends. The comprehension skill we will be focusing on this week is figuring out the problem and solution in a story.

We will have our second literature circle discussion around the book, The Breadwinner on **Wednesday October 3**. Students have been assigned a certain number of chapters to read by Wednesday and must complete a role sheet and four quality questions they will share with their groups. Students who work with Ms. Circo meet to discuss their week's reading each Monday.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week.

Math

Graded Unit 2 tests will be returned tomorrow. Each student must complete a Unit Test Self-Assessment evaluating his/her mistakes. Please review the Self-Assessment with your child, sign it, and have your child return the form to school. This is a 5 Guilder assignment, so please help your child earn Guilders by signing the Self-Assessment.

This week, we started a short unit on division. Today, we reviewed long division and practiced a mental division strategy called Friendly Parts division. Later this week, we will be learning the partial quotients division method. This method relies heavily on the ability to subtract and multiply fluently. You can help your child at home by practicing math facts regularly.

Science

This week, we begin with a discussion of solar power and the technology needed to create a photovoltaic cell. We will also examine climate change and the greenhouse effect and will conduct an experiment that will compare rooftops -- white, black,, and "green."

Social Studies

Big Question: What character traits did the explorers we've studied have in common with each other?

On Tuesday and Thursday of this week, students will present their Explorer Treasure Chest projects. Our first unit assessment will be on **Friday, October 12th**. Last Friday, students received a study guide in class. The study guide includes a challenge question that students must answer in order to receive a 4. We have encouraged students to practice writing out the answer to the challenge question before Friday as practice. They will not be able to use the textbooks or their study guides on the test. Looking ahead, our next unit is on the United States government. We will be learning about the three branches of government, the electoral process and our former presidents.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Peterson
apeterson@op97.org

Ms. Yigzaw
svigzaw@op97.org

